

Chicopee Register

Four CPD officers test positive for coronavirus

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Dept. has fallen victim to its first COVID-19 cluster. The Public Safety Complex on Church Street is on high alert, as four police officers have tested positive for the novel coronavirus since Oct. 1.

Police Chief William Jebb and Mayor John Vieau held an impromptu press conference in the City Council Chambers in City Hall last Thursday, announcing that three officers were infected. A fourth officer tested positive for the virus on Oct. 5.

“The officer worked closely with the original officers who tested positive last week,” said Public Information Ofc. Danusia Liszka on Oct. 5. “All officers that may have had contact with this cluster have been tested with no positive results. As a precaution, all the officers will be monitored and retested.”

Chicopee Health Director Lisa Sanders is working in tandem with the police department and City Hall to ensure that the proper protocols

See COVID page 5



Mayor John Vieau stands beside the City Hall eagle Weathervane shortly before it was lifted into the sky on Wednesday morning.

Eagle rises above City Hall atop new weathervane

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – An eagle rose high above the heart of Chicopee on Oct. 6. The Chicopee Eagle Weathervane returned to its perch atop the City Hall Clock Tower on Wednesday morning, a site that a proud group of municipal employees were able to witness.

“It’s a significant milestone. The eagle is one of the first things that came down at

the beginning of the project, so to see it go back up today really means that the contractors will be able to start working from the top down, finishing things up,” said City Planner Lee Pouliot, referring to the \$11 million City Hall renovation project that is nearing its final stages.

The weathervane that was hoisted 147 ft. into the air earlier this week is a replica of the original piece, which was forged in bronze at the Ames

Sword Co., located across the street from City Hall, shortly before the building opened in 1871.

The original eagle remained in place atop the brick and stone tower and turret for nearly a century and a half before being taken down during the initial stages of the building’s renovation last year. The item will soon be placed on display inside the City Hall

See EAGLE page 8

‘31 Days of Halloween’ at Chicopee Public Library

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Halloween 2020 will be unlike any other we’ve experienced, but the Chicopee Public Library is doing all it can do ensure local children enjoy the holiday. Youth Services Specialist Corina Stokes hopes to capture the spirit of the season by launching a new “31 Days of Halloween” program.

Those who participate in the month-long initiative will be encouraged to complete a new task each day. The Halloween fun ranges from making masks out of paper, reading spooky stories, counting squirrels and going on a ghost hunt at home.

“A big part of it is encour-

aging our little ones to look at the world,” said Stokes. “They’re still learning how to look at the world in different ways, so all of these activities are designed to make them think in a way that they might not be used to, or practice motor skills in a way that they’re not used to with drawing, leaf rubbing and cutting things out with scissors.”

The library has been closed to the public since mid-March, but the Children’s Room has found success launching online programming that aims to bring children and parents together by engaging in a variety of fun exercises.

Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly detailed the approach that Daly hopes has positively impacted countless



The Halloween Monster Pack and Blue Tootsie Pop Spider are among several crafts being featured as part of the Chicopee Public Library Children Room’s October programming. Photos submitted by the Chicopee Public Library.



children in Chicopee. While the facility is closed, the minds of local children have been open and receptive to new ideas

See HALLOWEEN page 3



COMMUNITY

Fontaine named Youth of the Year

See Page 5



PEOPLE

Colleens embrace challenges, opportunities

See Page 6



SPORTS

Colts edge Pacers in opener

See Page 7



COMMUNITY

Arbors gives back

See Page 8

INDEX

Opinion	4
Sports	7
Classifieds	10
Public Notices	9

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Baystate Health readies for ‘twindemic’

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

Over the last six months, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed forward a number of changes within Baystate Health’s operations, from offering telehealth appointments to holding informational sessions for families deciding whether or not to send their kids back to school.

Now, the facilities are also readying for a “twindemic,” heading into the flu viral season during the global pandemic. And Molly Gray, president and chief administrative officer of Baystate Health Eastern Region, which includes Baystate Wing Hospital and Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center, anticipates we could be wearing face masks for another year, since the two most promising vaccines currently in development in Massachusetts haven’t completed clinical trials yet – and even when those vaccines are ready, it will take time to reach the goal of a vaccinated population.

“I see family and friends saying, ‘maybe we’ll have an easier viral season because people are wearing masks,’” Gray said. “I’m worried we’re going to have a tough viral season. It’s very likely that as more activities move indoors, the likelihood of exposure is increased. I think even the low community transmission rates we’ve seen locally sometimes causes us to feel a little bolder about taking off our masks or having those events or parties... but we are in a global pandemic. It is not gone, and we have to really treat it that way.”

Gray also identified issues with the vaccines currently being developed; for one, they need to be kept at minus-90 degrees Fahrenheit, and “nobody outside of a research lab has a freezer that goes that low,” Gray said.

Additionally, once the vaccines have thawed, they’re only stable at normal refrigeration temperatures for 24 hours.

Americans are also largely unaccustomed to getting annual vaccines. Across

the U.S., only 30-35% of the population get a flu vaccine each year, Gray said.

Once COVID-19 vaccines are readily available, Baystate could have big, one-day vaccination events in order to overcome issues like the short shelf life of the vaccine. In that event, social distancing and safety guidelines would be implemented, Gray said.

But “there’s a long way between having a vaccine and having a vaccinated population,” she said. “That’s got a million facets itself in terms of why people do or don’t accept vaccines, like why some people are anti-vaxxers who won’t accept any vaccine, and what kind of distrust have we earned in African-American populations? Because the Tuskegee syphilis study is one big study everybody knows about, but there are numerous others. So, will people of color seek vaccinations? And how do we get it out to everyone? There are so many things.”

Gray doesn’t think herd immunity is very realistic in the U.S. either – at least, not without reaching five or six million deaths first, she said.

Changes at Baystate

Since the pandemic hit, Baystate has made a number of changes to its operations, both internally and in how it interacts with consumers in order to lessen community transmission.

“It really has been a whirlwind,” Gray said of the last six months.

One positive change has been adding telehealth visits so that consumers can address certain healthcare needs virtually, without leaving their homes – something consumers have been wanting for a long time and which has also benefited healthcare workers, since no-show rates for those appointments, like behavioral health visits, have dropped to almost zero.

Gray has also been hosting regular calls with local community leaders including town managers, police and fire chiefs, hospital staff and EMS directors to disseminate the latest information

on safety guidelines and any local outbreaks, as well as to answer questions and talk about healthcare workers’ fears and anxieties.

In April, Gray said there were some tearful resignations from healthcare professionals who feared for their safety and the safety of their families. Otherwise, there haven’t been many changes in staffing numbers, although some have moved into new roles, like leading safety trainings.

The facilities have held internal training seminars to teach healthcare workers the safest way to put on and take off personal protective equipment, since their greatest risk for becoming infected happens when they take off that equipment and can come into contact with the virus if it’s on their gear, Gray said.

And every patient who enters a Baystate facility is tested for the virus. At Wing Hospital, only three patients have tested positive for coronavirus in the last eight weeks, Gray said. Cases peaked the week of April 8, when there were 16-20 cases at Wing Hospital and nearly 200 across Baystate Health, with 40 people in critical care.

“The overall positivity rate in the state has been just under 1% which is excellent,” Gray said. “We’ve seen a slow increase at Baystate Health in the last week. Whereas we were at about a 1% positivity rate in patients tested, we were seeing 1.42%. It’s a small number, but it’s an increase.”

Baystate will also be requiring a flu vaccine for every worker in Baystate facilities, even for those working remotely, in order to prioritize community prevention, with only a couple exceptions allowed for strict religious or other reasons. In past years, getting a flu vaccine and wearing face masks were optional.

Moving forward, “the most responsible thing (people) can do is to wear our masks, take care of each other, and get through this,” Gray said.

Fire officials launch Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 – 10

STOW – State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and Fire Chiefs’ Association of Massachusetts President Chief Michael Newbury are launching Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 – 10.

“This year’s theme Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen, emphasizes how important it is for every family to be aware of what is cooking on the stove and to stay in the kitchen when cooking,” said State Fire Marshal Ostroskey.

Stay in the kitchen and put a lid on stovetop fires

Chief Newbury said, “Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, and unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires. We know cooking fires can be prevented. Stay in the kitchen when cooking. Have a lid nearby so if there is a fire, you can put a lid on the pan and turn the burner off.” He added, “When baking, use a kitchen timer if you must leave the kitchen to remind you that there is something in the oven. But don’t leave the house.”

Working smoke alarms and a practiced escape plan save lives

“If you have a fire at home you may have less than three minutes after the alarm sounds to get out safely. Preventing cooking fires can mean the difference between life and death,” says State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. “Fire Prevention Week is also a great time to hold a family fire drill: test the smoke alarms, replace those that are more than ten years old, practice two ways of getting outside and going to the meeting place,” he added.

Fire departments across the state will be busy during Fire Prevention Week sharing information to help everyone in their community learn how to prevent fires and survive those that do occur.

The National Fire Protection Association is the sponsor of National Fire Prevention Week, which commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of October 8-10, 1871.

HALLOWEEN from page 1

and activities, Daly said.

“[‘31 Days of Halloween’ is] similar to what we did in the summer where we want people to continue being creative and using their brains; going outside and doing all those good things that we can do. Even though we can’t hang out with all of our friends, it’s important to focus on the fun things that we can do,” said Daly.

Stokes took Daly’s philosophy to heart as she created the Halloween initiative. She also believes that the hands-on exercises will pull children away from the computer screens that have become fundamental to the education of many Chicopee students.

“Now that school has started up again and so much of it is going to be in front of the screen, I wanted to think of any activi-

ties that sort of take you away from there,” said Stokes. “I’m sure that everyone’s lives are very overwhelming right now; I wanted to ease up on parents’ brainstorming and do it ourselves.”

Stokes divulged that the pandemic has inspired library staff to dig deep as they pursue and develop creative programming. The results of the added effort have been both productive and rewarding.

“It definitely takes us some extra brain pressing to figure out how we can best serve our families when so much of our job was having people come in and use our space. To be able to see the demand for what we can offer in this sort of round about, safe way has just been really good,” she said.

Stokes urges all local families with young children to involve themselves in the “31 Days of Halloween” program. In

a year that has been challenging for all, Stokes believes the program could bring a renewed sense of joy to its participants.

“Since it’s something that can be done day by day, you can look forward to it. Every day when you wake up, you know you have something new to look at,” she said. “Some might be a little bit more involved than others; some days might be a quick thing you do, but it’s something for families to check in on everyday and have new surprises. It’s one thing they can do that day that they don’t have to think of

themselves.”

Other Halloween crafts that the Children’s Room is featuring this month include the Monster Pack that has candy corn and bat cut-outs, along with Tootsie Pop spider kits. Daly encourages library patrons to submit photos of their crafts to chicopeelibrary@kids@gmail.com.

More information pertaining to the Children’s Room can be viewed on the library’s website at chicopeepubliclibrary.org. Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



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October transportation services for seniors

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department is doing emergency rides to supermarkets, pharmacies and doctor’s appointment during COVID-19, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. for Chicopee’s older adults. For reservations, please call 413-536-5733.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicopee COA follows all CDC Safety Standards and adheres to all mandates from the City and State of Massachusetts.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.



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IN THE GARDEN

Unique trees for seasonal color

We stayed home most of last weekend. By the time we got back into the car to head off to school, the hills were no longer shade of green, they were ablaze in all the familiar yellows, oranges, and reds produced by our cherished maple trees.

Some say the color is dull this year. I say I'll take what I can get. When everything else seems messed-up, at least we can count on

the change of seasons. If you would like to add some unique color to your home landscape, consider planting one or more of the following lesser-known trees in your yard.

First of all, what causes leaves to change color? If you guessed that it has something to do with cooler weather and less hours of daylight you are correct. These cues cause trees to enter their dormant period. During dormancy the production of chlorophyll ceases (it is chlorophyll that gives vegetation its green color), allowing other color pigments in the leaf to become more prominent. Carotenoids are yellow and orange pigments, while anthocyanins are red and purplish. Brilliance varies from season to season thanks to the weather, but as a general rule bright sunny days and cool nights make for great leaf peeping.

The first and most intriguing tree I'll mention is the ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*). This tree is a living artifact; fossil records date it back 200 million years ago! Recently, extracts of ginkgo have been touted to boost memory. Besides being tolerant of salt and smog, the tree has a nice shape, pyramidal when young and becoming more open and spreading with age. Unique fan-shaped leaves turn brilliant yellow in fall, and then, seemingly overnight, will all drop to the ground. Imagine, raking only once! Plant only male cultivars, as fruit produced by females is messy and stinky. 'Magyar' and 'Autumn Gold' are two such cultivars that mature to about 60 feet.

An even more majestic tree with desirable fall foliage is the tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). It is one of our tallest eastern American deciduous trees, reaching 190 feet in rare cases. At home, expect vigorous growth from 70 to 90 feet in height, with a spread of roughly half that. Give the tulip poplar lots of room and rich, moisture retentive soil. Mature trees flower in late spring; honey from cross-pollinating bees is reportedly superior in quality. Leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow in the fall. For a shorter version of this wonderful tree, plant the cultivar 'Fastigiatum'; it grows to around 50 feet and is more narrow in shape.

Another one of my favorite trees is the sourwood (*Oxydendron arboreum*). Supposedly, the sourwood gets its name from its acidic-tasting leaves that hunters would chew on to ward off thirst during long days spent in the woods. This eastern U.S. native is a tree for all seasons, but especially autumn. Lily of the valley-like flowers (fragrant, too) cover rich green foliage in summer. Foliage changes to yellow, red and purple in fall. Seedpods dangle from the tree even after leaves have dropped. The sourwood matures to a delicate 25 feet. Plant close-by to fully appreciate. I'll always remember that this tree was a favorite of my close friend and horticultural legend, Paul Rogers.

An additional small tree worthy of mention is the apple serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*). Like the sourwood, this selection has multi-season interest. White flowers appear in spring before leaves are present. Orange and red fall foliage is especially noteworthy in a cultivar by the name of 'Autumn Brilliance'. Edible fruit persists only as long



Roberta McQuaid

See **COLOR** page 8

GUEST COLUMN

Elections are fundamental

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

Elections are the hallmark of representative democracy. As a nation, we put a great deal of faith in elections, and the voting process. We abide by their results. Elections are fundamental to our system of government. We commit to a peaceful transfer of power to the election winners. Elections are the way we do business and make many key decisions. We have hundreds of elections to choose candidates for public office. They occur at all levels of government: municipal, county, district and state as well as national. We have primary elections within political parties and elections to choose leaders of corporations and nongovernmental organizations. Just as we cast ballots in elections, our core institutions rely on voting. The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate enact legislation by voting. Supreme Court decisions are approved by voting among the justices. Your local city council or township board votes to approve budgets and tax rates.

Elections generally reflect the principle of majority rule, but not always. Sometimes a plurality of voters decides, as when an election includes multiple candidates, and no one wins a majority. However, we agree on the rules by which elections are conducted and accept their results.

Representative government works because of our support for elected leaders. We choose, as a society, to be governed by them. It's frightening to think of governmental decisions being made by a handful of unelected people.

Elections serve at least four important functions. First, they allow us to express policy preferences across a wide range of issues. Voters try to push government in certain directions. We use elections, for example, to signal our leaders how to manage the economy or conduct foreign affairs.

Second, and most obviously, we use elections to choose our leaders. Candidates work hard to get our support, but, ultimately, the voters decide. We support the individuals we want in office and the party whose ideals and values align with our own.

Third, elections help us enforce accountability, which is essential to democratic government. Elections are the way we ensure our government officials answer for their actions. We use the vote to express approval and disapproval.

A fourth function, I believe, is that elections confer legitimacy to our system of representative government, giving our leaders the authority to act through the consent of the governed. Through elections, we delegate responsibility for officials to act on our behalf.

In the United States, the world's oldest constitutional democracy, we expect that elections will be free and honest and that votes will be tallied without prejudice or manipulation. Because of the importance of elections, we should be concerned about voter turnout. Only about 55% of eligible adults vote in U.S. presidential elections; turnout is much higher in most other advanced democracies.

New developments have emerged to shake our faith in elections. Russian forces have tried to influence American voters. Russian, Chinese and Iranian hackers have reportedly tried to hack election-related computer accounts. Others have questioned the validity of voting by mail and suggested, without evidence, that the election may be rigged.

The integrity of the electoral process is tremendously important. Free, honest and transparent elections are essential for maintaining the public's faith in government.

Abraham Lincoln famously asked whether a nation conceived and dedicated to the principle that all people are created equal could long endure. His answer was that America needed a "new birth of freedom" to deliver on its promise. Free and fair elections, conducted in accordance with accepted rules and procedures, are the way we ensure that freedom is continually reborn. We need to treasure and protect them.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Substance of the first 2020 presidential debate...



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Caleb Fontaine named 'Youth of the Year' by Boys & Girls Club

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Sept. 28, 2020 will go down in history as “Caleb Fontaine Day” in the city of Chicopee. During a small ceremony last Monday, Mayor John Vieau announced the official designation in recognition of Fontaine, the 2020 Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee Youth of the Year.

“I was like, ‘Whoa, wasn’t expecting that one.’ I didn’t know you could just do that. It’s crazy. I’m really overwhelmed at the fact I had this big of an impact on the people around me,” said Fontaine, a 15-year-old sophomore at Chicopee High School.

Fontaine was surrounded by friends, family and community leaders during last week’s celebration behind the club’s Teen Center, located in the Senecal Housing Community Building at 664 Meadow St. Club Marketing & Development Director Lynn Morrisette discussed the process that led to Fontaine’s eventual selection.

“Anybody that wants to become Youth of the Year has to write three different essays on three different topics and stand in front of a panel of judges. Obviously, this year was a little bit different, being more over Zoom. The judges are the one who choose the Youth of the Year. Any of the teens are able to apply and write essays,” said Morrisette.

Vieau has long been a staple at the Boys & Girls Club. The mayor became a club member at age six and later worked at the facility. He showed great pleasure in congratulating Fontaine.



Caleb Fontaine stands with his family following a Sept. 28 ceremony that honored him as the 2020 Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee Youth of the Year.

“It’s important to the community to have kids like Caleb and to announce that it’s ‘Caleb Fontaine Day’ today. It’s special because he is that type of kid who is out there to lend that extra helping hand and volunteer when needed,” said Vieau.

For Fontaine, the ceremony was surreal. He took advantage of his unexpected

platform, praising the club’s atmosphere while encouraging other Chicopee youths to join.

“It’s kind of crazy to think about the amount of attention you can get from people you never imagined,” he said. “It’s a great place that helps you build character. I feel very safe and welcome when I’m

here. It’s somewhere you can be yourself, make friends and learn to be a better person.”

Fontaine has been a club member since 2018 and volunteers as a coach for the club’s fifth and sixth-grade basketball teams. He also volunteers at the club during the summer, guiding and teaching other members about being a counselor.

Having witnessed the impact that he’s made on club members, Morrisette said she holds Fontaine in the highest regard. She is optimistic that other youths will follow the example set by Fontaine during his three years at the club.

“Caleb is an amazing young man, so to be able to congratulate him in some fashion is a wonderful opportunity,” she said, alluding to the fact that the ceremony is typically held as a large formal dinner.

“It’s very motivating for other kids to look at that and say, ‘Hey, maybe I should go and take a look at the club and see what they can offer.’ Maybe they’ll see all the different opportunities Caleb has had and they’ll want to take a chance and join in,” Morrisette continued.

After the ceremony concluded, Vieau spoke to each individual who attended the small gathering. The club will always hold a special place in Vieau’s heart, and he isn’t scared to admit it, he said.

“The club made me the person who I am today and taught me about trying to do what’s right, how to be a leader and to follow your dreams,” said Vieau.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

COVID from page 1

are established and adhered to. All internal business and pistol applications are suspended at this time.

Jebb emphasized that there will be no gap in service, as officers will continue to respond to calls. While the public will be temporarily prohibited from entering the facility, Jebb assured residents once more that the department will continue to function.

“The building itself is being sanitized,” said Jebb. “All work stations are being cleaned, and all officers are required to wear N95 masks.”

Last Wednesday, a Chicopee officer fell ill and began displaying symptoms in line with COVID-19. Upon confirmation of his positive test, the department conducted multiple tests, revealing that two more officers had also contracted the virus.

The initial three officers who tested positive have all displayed symptoms; as of Oct. 7, the department had yet to release information pertaining to the state of the fourth officer. Several of the officers are resting at home and another was hospitalized at the First Responder Recovery Center, a facility operated by the Hampden County Sheriff’s Dept.

As the tests have been confirmed, the city has been in close contact with the state’s Dept. of Health. Jebb was among at least 11 other officers who came in contact with the individuals who tested positive; all received rapid-testing and did not test positive for the virus.

Sixteen members of the department that worked in proximity to the those who tested positive quarantined for 24 hours beginning Oct. 1. Due to a limited supply of tests, Vieau acknowledged that employees who came in closest contact with the ailing officers were tested first.

The infected officers are primarily stationed inside of the building and don’t



Four Chicopee police officers have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past seven days; the department is temporarily restricting public access to the building.

typically respond to calls. The city, therefore, does not believe that they exposed members of the public to COVID-19.

The Health Dept. is currently conducting contact tracing on each of the four officers in an attempt to quash the potential spread of the virus. While the fire department also calls the Public Safety Complex home, it has reported no concerns, as the departments are physically separated.

If the cluster spreads further within the department, the city can request the assistance of local or state law enforcement. Vieau is confident that the department is staffed adequately and does not expect such action to be necessary.

Despite the fact that the police department shares the Public Safety Complex with the Chicopee Fire Dept., fire officials stated on Oct. 7 that no personnel have tested positive for COVID-19.

On Oct. 5, the city announced that there were 31 active cases of COVID-19 in Chicopee. Since the virus arrived in Chicopee in March, there have been 687 total cases; 572 residents have recovered while 17 have died.

More information pertaining to the city’s COVID-19 count can be found on chicopeema.gov. Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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Colleen Court embraces challenges, opportunities

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – At the apex of the Coronation Ball on Feb. 22, five young women learned of their selection to the 2020 Chicopee Colleen Court. Addressing a packed audience at the Castle of the Knights on Memorial Drive, each woman voiced tremendous gratitude and embraced the prospects of participating in dozens of community events over the course of the year.

The most exciting activity would involve marching in the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 22. Unfortunately, that didn’t pan out; with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parade and the majority of the court’s other public engagements were promptly canceled.

This year’s court was dealt a difficult hand. Unlike members of the dozens of courts that proceeded them, Sophie Warren, Meghan Kalbaugh, Karoline Kraus, Caitlin Mogilka and Grand Colleen Ava Baron were denied participation in many of the activities that have long been tradition.

Instead of letting frustration overwhelm them, the court has done their best to respond valiantly. Since the crowning ceremony in February, the group of young women have pulled together, aiming to make an impact while socially distancing.

“We’re going to go down in history as a group of girls who persevered and did a whole bunch of different things like car parades, which were so fun. There were all these adorable little kids who looked up to us, and that was awesome,” said Warren.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LT. KATIE KALBAUGH OF THE CHICOPEE FIRE DEPT.

The 2020 Chicopee Colleen Court poses for a photo shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench its plan to march in the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade. [L to R top: Meghan Kalbaugh, Karoline Kraus] [L to R on bottom: Sophie Warren, Grand Colleen Ava Baron, Caitlin Mogilka].

The Colleen Court has become synonymous with the many birthday car parades that have occurred in Chicopee this year. Baron, a political science major at Providence College, credited Colleen Contest Coordinator Kristen Hubert for helping to introduce the court to the birthday parades that lifted the spirits of many. “My favorite part about the parades is the face of whoever’s birthday it is.

We’ve done a bunch of them,” said Baron. “We did one for a little girl, and the way she just looked at us; it was so sweet just watching her face. People love parades, and with the lack of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade this year, to be able to do little things like this to be able to make up for it is amazing.” Throughout the spring, summer and fall, the court has stayed in touch fre-

quently, communicating on a weekly basis via text and social media. Mogilka believes that the unforeseen situation has united the group further. “It’s definitely been difficult, but we’re still really close. I think what’s happened has made us closer in different ways, just knowing that we can still connect and talk to each other about different things,” said Mogilka, an employee at Girls Inc. of the Valley.

Fortunately, a spot has been reserved for the 2020 court in next year’s Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Kraus said she anticipates the event next March, but is more focused on the present.

“I can definitely say that I’m never going to take anything for granted,” said Kraus, a mechanical engineering major at Western New England University. “Even though it’s a tough time, you can still make good memories out of the little things that you do. It’s great to get out there and make someone else’s day better, along with ours. It’s not the big events that matter; it’s the little things that we do for our community.”

Kalbaugh agreed, noting that she’s “learned to enjoy life and take it one day at a time because you never know what could happen.”

Over the course of 2020, the initiative Kalbaugh has most enjoyed entailed reading children’s stories to local preschool students virtually.

“We each ended up filming a video of us reading a story and posting it on Facebook.

See COLLEENS page 8



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Alyssa Caney tries to settle the ball as she moves up the field.



Samantha Breton is closely pursued as she moves up the field.



Izabelle Lapierre sends a quick pass to her right.



Brielle Los sprints up the field with the ball.



Emily Wilkinson tries some footwork moves to keep the ball from her opponent.



ABOVE: Comp's Jarissa Rosario cross the field and heads for the goal.



LEFT: Athena Cusson tries to track down a loose ball for the Pacers.



Legacy Edger gets the "kick-in" for the Colts.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

CHICOPEE – In the latest chapter of the great inner-city rival, the Chicopee Comprehensive Colts defeated the Chicopee Pacers 2-1 on Monday afternoon in girls soccer action. Samantha Breton and Jarissa Rosario had the goals for Comp while Brielle Los scored the lone tally for the Pacers. Madelyn Rice made five saves for the Colts while Samara Robles had a busier day in net for Chicopee High with 13 saves.

Geographic ‘bubbles’ adopted for fall season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – It seemed to work okay for Major League Baseball, and now the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference in Western Massachusetts and Mid-Wach League of Central Mass. are utilizing a similar strategy to limit travel for teams.

High school fall sports will observe a similar limited travel schedule to that of the MLB as they go into “geographic” bubbles. In Western Mass., due to the diversity of the area, the PVIAC has always made leagues based on a competitive balance. While you might see intermingling of the teams in Division 1, 2, 3, and 4, it is based on how good a

team’s competition level is in a certain sport. Now, there is still intermingling of divisions, but it is only based on the region and the pure geography of the area. In many sports, the teams have been divided into four “bubbles.” They are Hampshire East and West, and Hampden East and West. Many of the Springfield teams have been placed into

a bubble within the city due to the number of schools there. The Hampden leagues consists mostly of the larger schools in the region as Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Minnechaug, Chicopee, and Chicopee Comprehensive are lumped into the Hampden East. On the other side, the Hampden West features Westfield, Agawam, West Springfield,

Holyoke, Northampton, with smaller schools Southwick and Hampshire Regional lumped in. Smaller schools are featured in the Hampshire West, with Gateway, Easthampton, Smith Vocational, St. Mary’s, Westfield Tech, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion School.

See **BUBBLE** page 11



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This year, the walk is everywhere, and for Arbors Assisted Living, the walk was around our community on September 25th! Arbors gives back raised \$2,500 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's.



Arbors Gives Back

Springfield Parade of the Big Balloons canceled

SPRINGFIELD – The Spirit of Springfield has announced that the Parade of the Big Balloons will take a pause this holiday season. The traditional procession held the day after Thanksgiving will not be held due to COVID-19 and current restrictions on parades. “We are saddened to see another tradition be canceled,” said Judy Matt, Spirit of Springfield President. “But it is for the safety and health of our community. We do not want to risk further spread of coronavirus to the audience, participants and volunteers.” The Parade of the Big Balloons has been a long-time Springfield tradition. Springfield’s own Cat in the Hat balloon joined the procession in 1991 when the Spirit of Springfield took over the responsibilities of the parade. Tower Square has sponsored the parade since 1995. “It has been a joy to support the Spirit

of Springfield and the Parade of the Big Balloons, and then open our doors for our Holiday Open House,” said Fred Christensen, Tower Square General Manager. “These are extraordinary times, and we must take every precaution to keep our community healthy.” This year, the Spirit of Springfield was forced to cancel the World’s Largest Pancake Breakfast, Star Spangled Springfield and the City of Bright Nights Ball. Springfield’s September 11th Ceremony was held with attendance limited to 50 people. The Spirit of Springfield Golf Classic was postponed twice, but held on Friday, Sept. 25. Bright Nights at Forest Park, as just announced, will be held with social distancing protocols in place. For 30 years, the Spirit of Springfield has been bringing the community together in celebration.

COLOR from page 4

as you or birds allow it to. This native is best utilized in a naturalistic planting near the edges of woodlands or along stream banks. I hope that the beautiful rainbow of color outside of your door, be it muted or in bright hues, will be a promise of better days ahead.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

EAGLE from page 1

Auditorium, set to reopen to the public for the first time in decades upon the project’s completion. “In Chicopee we’re all about history,” said Mayor John Vieau. “I thought that was the greatest idea that someone could come up with, that we could take the eagle and put it on display and have people see a part of history and the craftsmanship and how it’s been weathered since 1871.” The replica weathervane is composed of fiberglass. It will point in the direction of the wind and features a gold-leafed exterior. Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier took in the sight, alongside several city officials. He expressed his belief that the new eagle represents the renaissance occurring in Chicopee Center as part of MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative. “Bringing people back downtown in the City of Chicopee; it’s going to be the beacon and the center again. It’s going to help revitalize the area,” said Balakier. “City Hall is a project that had to be done. We took care of a lot of projects in this city and finally with the heart and center of government, we’re able to take care of that.”

The eagle above City Hall depicts the “federal eagle,” a patriotic symbol that was popular in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, following the designation of the bald eagle as a national symbol in 1788. Pouliot has been integral in the effort to repair City Hall and was moved as he observed the eagle take to the skies with the assistance of a crane. Pouliot acknowledged that the renovation has been difficult, but the fruits of the labor will benefit many future generations. “We’re talking about a building that we don’t have the original plans for, so we’ve had to sort of research and figure out how this thing was put together, then take it apart and put it back together again. It’s been a painstaking process, but there’s been great expertise and skill



At the intersection of Exchange St. and Springfield St., the new eagle weathervane can clearly be seen atop City Hall.

that’s gone into this. I’m confident that this building will be in good shape for many years to come,” said Pouliot. Vieau also identified the bigger picture. He is confident that the new weathervane will lift the spirits of those who pass through Chicopee Center. “To have this replica eagle go back to its final resting place for the rest of my life is an incredible day; it’s replicating history,” said Vieau. “We’re hoping if someone catches something, it’s the pride that all of us in Chicopee have. Making it spread is what my goal is as mayor.” Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.



Surrounded by city officials, Assoc. Planner Nathan Moreau points to the newly installed weathervane on the Chicopee City Hall Clock Tower.

COLLEEN from page 6

It was really sweet,” said Kalbaugh, a nursing student at American International College. “I hoped it would bring a smile to the little kids’ faces because during such a time of uncertainty, they have been feeling a little nervous and scared, so I hope that they were able to watch it and smile.” Warren, a student athlete majoring in health science at Springfield College, is certain that the experience has allowed each member of the court to grow immensely. This year’s court has been through circumstances unlike any other, a detail that Warren takes great pride in. “Throughout this, we’ve all learned to push through hard times and we’ve learned that not everything comes easy; sometimes there are challenges you have to overcome. It’s definitely been a completely different experience than any Colleen court has faced in the past, so I’m glad that we all do have each other,” said Warren.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 C (5) for the purpose of adding a second residential unit within a business building. A previous special permit allowed for one residential unit located at 104 Lauzier Ter. Applicant – Rui & Fatima Mendes, 190 Southwood Dr., Ludlow, MA 01056.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the October 28, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by October 26, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications> Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 10/09, 10/16/2020

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 10/09, 10/16/2020

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-52 B (11) for the purpose of producing specialty jams and jellies for retail and wholesale (production only) located at 18 Curtis St. Applicant – Ruth N. Adams, 18 Curtis St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

Applications

***COVID-19:** Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the October 28, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom). Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by October 26, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications> Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>.

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Notice Of Sale

By MA Gen Laws c. 255, Sec. 39A, **Chucks Towing, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA** is holding a private sale **October 29, 2020 at 2 P.M.** to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses notice of sale.

2007 Acura RDX Black
Vin# 5J8TB18207A004378
Owner: Jamal Antonio Rodriguez Francis
Date of Tow: 1-28-20
10/9, 10/16, 10/22/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600 Docket No. HD20P1677EA

Estate of: Cathleen A. Dion Also Known As: Cathleen Dion Date of Death: January 14, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **LeeAnn Whalley** of South Hadley, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

LeeAnn Whalley of South Hadley, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision

by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 10/09/2020

Notice of Sale

By MA Gen Laws c.255, Sec39A, **CHUCK'S TOWING, 78 West St., Chicopee, MA** is holding a private sale for a vehicle October 21, 2020 to satisfy garage keepers lien for storage and towing charges and expenses of notices of sale.

1994 Suzuki 650 Blue
VIN: JS1SP4SA9RZ100798
Owner: Unknown
Date of Tow: 10-25-2013
Towed by: Chicopee Police Dept.

9/24, 10/1, 10/09/2020

(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 20 SM 001553 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Patricia T. Gougeon a/k/a Patricia Gougeon

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 et seq.:

Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. as Trustee for Mortgage Assets Management Series I Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Chicopee, numbered 4 Daniel Drive, given by Robert Gougeon and Patricia Gougeon to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a subsidiary of IndyMac Bank, F.S.B., dated August 11, 2004, and recorded or filed in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14417, Page 538, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recent-

ly have been, in the **active** military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property **on that basis**, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 9, 2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER**, Chief Justice of this Court on September 23, 2020.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
10/09/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20C0167CA
In the matter of: Hernan Alvarado Hernandez aka Herman Alvarado aka German Alvarado CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Hernan Alvarado Hernandez Herman Alvarado German Alvarado of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

German Alvarado IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/28/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/09/2020

Commonwealth Of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20A0069AD

In the matter of: Alizaeh Manuel Rodriguez CITATION G.L. c. 210, § 6

To: any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Alexis Vallina of Chicopee, MA

Alba Vallina of Chicopee, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Alizaeh Benjamin Vallina
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3: 10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 10/23/2020**

WITNESS Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 22, 2020
Suzanne T. Segin
Register of Probate
10/09/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P1686EA
Estate of: Joseph Stanley Roginski Also known as: Joseph Roginski, Joseph S Roginski Date of Death: 08/14/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lynn A Page** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal

Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lynn A Page** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 29, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/09/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Chicopee Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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tober 10th @ 10:00AM 359 Stafford
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Estates from East Windsor, CT.,
Suffield, CT., Wilbraham, MA., and
Worcester, MA.
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bids (see times to view & leave bids).
Reservations for seats are necessary.
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accessories of all types, Paintings &
Prints, Pottery, Porcelain, Glass &
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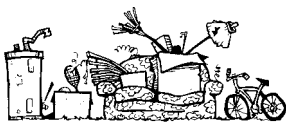
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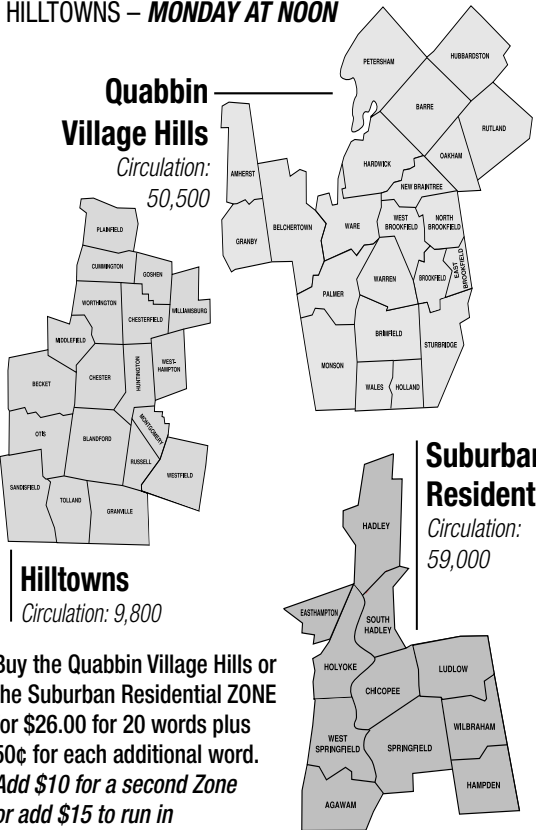
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There are some small exceptions, and they exist in field hockey and girls volleyball, where there are fewer teams in the region. However, the divisions are pretty similar. Field hockey has all the same teams in the Hampden West with the exception of Southwick, which is not playing field hockey.

Hampden East features Longmeadow, Minnechaug, East Longmeadow, Belchertown, South Hadley, and Amherst. Ludlow, Chicopee, and Chicopee Comprehensive do not have field hockey programs.

Girls volleyball has three bubbles.

Quabbin High School is a in a Central Mass. bubble that includes Oakmont, Murdock, and Gardner among its opponents.

The fall season officially began last Thursday with limited action. Full game schedules were going on Monday. Springfield's schedule is postponed for now with the city being elevated to high-risk status. Communities in that status are not able to play any high school sports. Monson was in that status a few weeks ago, but was cleared before the season began.

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 18th.

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